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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,638	03/01/2002	Anthony C. Bonora	34741-752	3741

33864 7590 10/08/2004

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EXAMINER

FOX, CHARLES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3652

DATE MAILED: 10/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/087,638

Applicant(s)

BONORA ET AL.

Examiner

Charles A. Fox

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MW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20020613, 20031212</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant's petition to expunge application number 10/194,702, 10/087,400 and 10/194,702 from the record will not be granted for the following reasons:

sections B-D of MPEP 724.05 have not been met;

applications 10/194,702 and 10/194,702 have been published, and are public knowledge at this time.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,5,6,9,11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Bonora et al.

In regards to claims 1,5,6,9,11 and 12 Bacchi et al. US 6,281,516 disclose a system for transferring wafers comprising:

a unified frame (14), including at least 2 vertical and parallel struts spaced apart and mounted to an upper and a lower support member, said frame defining an input/output port;

front and rear mounting surfaces on said lower support member;

front end load components (26,406) mounted to said mounting surfaces.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3,4,7,8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacchi et al. as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Nering. Bacchi et al. teaches the limitations of claims 1 and 6 as above, they do not teach the top and bottom supports being perforated. Nering US 6,050,891 teaches a system for moving wafers comprising:

a unified frame (120);

upper and lower supports for said frame connecting at least two vertical supports;

front end components mounted on said frame;

perforations in said upper and lower support members. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the frame taught by Bacchi et al. with perforations as taught by Nering in order to allow an air curtain to help prevent contaminants from entering the process system the frame is attached to, thereby decreasing the chances of ruined wafers.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacchi et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Muka et al. Bacchi et al. teach the limitations of claim 1 as above, they do not teach the carrier/port door assembly

being housed within the unified frame. Muka et al. US 5,613,821 teaches a frame (58) for attaching front end components to a wafer process system, said frame storing a port door/pod door assembly in its interior when said pod is opened. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the frame taught by Bacchi et al. with a space to store the pod door as taught by Muka et al. in order to store the door in a manner that decreases the amount of particles the wafers are exposed to.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonora et al. in view of Bacchi et al. Bonora et al. US 6,138,721 teaches a unified frame for mounting front end components comprising:

- a unified frame with vertical struts and an upper and lower support member;

- a front mounting plate(15) secured to the front face of the vertical struts;

- front end components (13) mounted to said plate. Bonora et al. do not teach the frame as having a backbone support member attached to its rear face.

Bacchi et al. teach a device comprising:

- a frame (10) with vertical struts;

- a front mounting plate;

- a backbone support member (400);

wherein front end components are mounted on said plate and backbone support member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Bonora et al. with a backbone support as taught by Bacchi et al. in order to provide a readily available means to remove wafers

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from the cassettes and move them into any desired device the frame may be mounted upon.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon, but considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure is: Gentischer 1997, Hofmeister et al. 2002 and Babbs et al. 2003.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles A. Fox whose telephone number is 703-605-4294. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:00-5:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached at 703-308-3248. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

CAF
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9-25-04